

CENTRAL TEXAS COASTAL AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

9 September 2004

The Central Texas Coastal Area Committee meeting convened at the Texas City Port Authority Building at 0900.

Minutes from the 10 June 2004 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Safety and Training:

Jim Overman, Dow Chemical, informed the members present that a 1-day Incident Command System (ICS) intro would be provided as well as Unified Command training sometime during the 3rd or 4th week of October 2004. His invitation extends to members who might use the training in a Unified Command scenario such as Law Enforcement, Hazmat Response, Industry, Local, State, and Federal entities. His goal is to build relationships with the people that would need to be there during a real incident where a Unified Command has been implemented.

Captain Richard M. Kaser announced that ICS 100-200 for federal employees would be held on 21 September 04 at the Harris County Public Health Department. All federal employees are required to be familiar with the ICS principals.

Marine Fire Fighting & Salvage (MFF&S):

LT. Joseph Leonard reviewed the current Marine Firefighting Initiatives. The Marine Firefighting Working Group develops plans, conducts training, and implements procedures to assist Incident Command personnel minimize the impact of fires and related events to the Marine Transportation System.

The Partners are:

- Central Texas Area Committee
- Channel Industries Mutual Aid
- Brazosport Marine Advisory Team
- Texas City-Galveston Port Safety Advisory Council
- Harris County Department of Public Health & Environmental Services
- Harris County Fire & Emergency Services Division
- Harris County Firefighters' Association
- Houston Fire Department
- Galveston Fire Department
- Freeport Fire Department
- Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Industrial Fire World

The Marine Firefighting Work Group consists of:

- LT Joe Leonard—USCG MSU Galveston (Chair)
- RFC Paul Hannemann-Texas Forest Service
- Chief Bruce Woods—Texas Forest Service
- Fire Marshal Mike Montgomery—Harris County F&ESD
- Asst. Chief Casey Davis—Harris County F&ESD
- Bob Royall—Harris County PH&ESD
- Chairman Ed Hawthorne—CIMA/Shell
- Chief Rick Deel—CIMA/Lubrizol
- Chief Pete Greco—CIMA/Lyondell-Citgo
- Asst. Chief Marvin Crawford—CIMA/Stolthaven
- Chief John Stanford—Freeport Fire Department
- Asst. Chief Jeff Smith—Galveston Fire Department
- Senior Captain Troy Lilley—Houston Fire Department
- Mr. John Hoss—Freeport Launch Services
- Mr. David White—Industrial Fire World Magazine
- All members are certified firefighters and fire instructors through either the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) or the State Firemen's and Fire Marshal's Association (SFFMA)

Marine Firefighting Coordination Group (Old Version):

Each Marine Firefighting Team is comprised of:

- ❖ Team Leader
- ❖ Marine Firefighting Technical Specialist
- ❖ Damage Control Technical Specialist
- ❖ Pollution Response Technical Specialist

Marine Firefighting Task Force (New Version):

- 34-person team designed to respond to or provide support in response to marine fires and related events.
- Capable of operations:
 - ❖ As an overhead team
 - ❖ In support of another fire service agency
 - ❖ As the primary provider of fire service capabilities.

***Anticipated to operate from 2-24 hours (or until contracted resources arrive on-scene for long-duration operations.

Field Operations Guide:

Development Team

LT Leonard

EMC Royall

Specialist Ed Hawthorne

Goals:

- Design an effective and user-friendly FOG for utilization within the Marine Firefighting Task Force.
- Utilize NIMS and USCG FOG as basis for development.
- Anticipate completion by 1 November 04.

Charter/Legal Issues:

Development Team

Fire Marshal Montgomery

Chief Woods

Goals:

- Design an effective and user-friendly FOG for utilization within the Marine Firefighting Task Force.
- Utilize Texas Task Force-1 protocols to address all legal issues, including indemnification issues.
- Texas Fire Chiefs' Association legal personnel to review final document.
- Anticipate completion by 1 December 04.

Training Requirements/Program:

Development Team

Safety Specialist Crawford

Specialist Deel

Goals:

- Determine training requirements to meet requirements of TCFP and/or SFFMA and develop an effective training program to be implemented as soon as practicable.
- Work with CTAC and NFPA 472 Committee on Marine Specialist training program development.
- Utilize NFPA 1405 and applicable TCFP and SFFMA guidelines as basis for program.
- Anticipate completion by 1 November 2004.

Training (POC: Lt. Leonard Tel: (409) 766-5416:

- Basic Marine Firefighting (1-2 day)
- Intermediate Marine Firefighting (2 day)
- Advanced Marine Firefighting (2 day)
- Harris County Firefighters' Association Field Day (2 day)
- Hazardous Materials Technician (3-12 days)
- NIMS ICS (1-3 days)
- NIMS Planning Section Course (3-4 days)
- NIMS Logistics Section Course (2 days)
- Texas Engineering Extension Center
Fire Protection Training Division (2-8 days)

Equipment Requirements:

Development Team

Assistant Chief Davis

Specialist Greco

Goals

- Determine equipment needs (Phase 1), then develop procurement program (phase 2).
- Anticipate completion of Phase 1 by 1 November 2004.
- Anticipate completion of Phase 2 by 1 January 2005.

Equipment:

- Field References
- Monitoring Equipment
- Personal Protective Clothing
- Ventilation Equipment
- Couplings and Adapters
- Dewatering Equipment
- Containment Equipment
- Extinguishment Delivery Equipment
- Specialty Tools and Equipment
- Communications Equipment

Liasion:

Houston Fire Department Senior Captain Lilley

Galveston Fire Department Assistant Chief Smith

Freeport Fire Department/BMAT Chief Stanford

Mr. Hoss

Items from the Floor

Monthly Hazardous Materials First Responder-Awareness level training will take place the first Wednesday of each month in 2004. Training will be held at TransStar and is co-sponsored by the Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee, Harris County Sheriff's Office, Harris County Office of Emergency Management, and the Harris County Fire and Emergency Services Division. Training will meet the refresher-training requirements of 29 CFR 1919.120(q) for any level of HAZWOPER. Quotas are available through Deputy Steve Cathey at (713) 881-3082.

The RRT VI and the Coast Guard Eighth District will be experiencing several key summer transitions:

- ❖ Co-Chair of the RRT VI: CAPT Dan Ryan retired and was replaced on 30 June 2004 by CAPT Ronald Branch. CAPT Branch will also serve as D8m. His assistant is CAPT Tim Close.
- ❖ Asst. Co-Chair of the RRT VI: CDR Mike Drieu departed and has been replaced by CDR Nathalie Valley.
- ❖ CAPT William Wagner, CO MSO Corpus Christi, was replaced by CAPT Lincoln Stroh

Presentations:

Andy Tirpak from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reviewed the Port Arthur Spill that recently had occurred. At approx. 0100 on 2 August 2004, while a BUFFALO MARINE barge was attempting to come along side to refuel the M/V TORM MARY, the barge collided with the vessel punching a hole in the M/V TORM MARY's hull. Approx. 600 bbls of IFO 380 was released. The river was closed for approximately 3 days with several miles of the river and surrounding marshes impacted by the spilled fuel oil to varying degrees. A few observations on the spill were presented here. A quick overview of the problems that occurred during the clean up were:

- ❖ The Command Center was originally located at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office (MSO) in Port Arthur, TX. The area designated as the Command Center at the MSO was not capable of handling that many people at one time. The Federal On Scene Commander, CAPT Sharon K. Richey, ordered that the Responsible Party move the Command Center to a larger facility such as the Holiday Inn.

- ❖ The techniques used to boom off some areas of the river were not completed using planned booming strategies. Specifically, some containment boom sections were run straight across the river. This resulted in oil escaping due entrainment from 3-4 knot river current, rendering the boom almost worthless.
- ❖ Hot ambient air temperatures, with heat indices reaching 115 deg F, slowed down the clean up process due workers not taking effective heat relief measures. Specifically, some workers were drinking carbonated beverages instead of water.

Approx 10-12 bbls of PS51 was used to clean the riprap (rocks) on the shoreline. It was not used to clean any marshes. Cytosol was not available in the amounts needed so only the PS51 was used. The PS51 required two applications, with the first cut removing the “skinned over” areas and then a second application that caused the oil to run off the surface as designed. The toxicity of the PS51 turned out to be slightly higher than the Cytosol would have been, but it was felt that difference was insignificant.

Decanting was used around the vessel that spilled and in the immediate vicinity of Unocal facility. The process had been stopped due to workers not decanting within the boomed areas designated for decanting.

Cleaning vessels, deep draft and barges that were affected by the spill turned out to be a problem when the same vessels had to be cleaned 4-5 times. The responders failed to take into account the loading/offloading draft changes causing oil to re-foul the vessel, resulting in larger areas of the ships/barges being oiled. Some vessels that had just loaded cargo, had to be immediately offloaded, re-cleaned, then reloaded, resulting in more delays.

Old Business

1. Inclusion of Decanting Approval Process in the Area Contingency Plan.
2. Emergency Alert System (EAS) for the Houston Operational Area. Members of the Houston Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC) are in the process of updating the local EAS Plan last revised January 2004. Subcommittees are meeting to develop proposed changes in the plan and work on assigned projects (e.g. improving the Houston Regional Amber Plan to help recover abducted children, developing fill-in-the-blank EAS message scripts for the new FCC-approved event codes, reviewing EAS activation procedures for local terrorism threats or attacks, etc.).
3. RRT VI EPA-led meeting was held 22-24 June 2004 at the Westin Hotel in Oklahoma City, OK.

New Business

ICP:

Mr. Jim Overman, Dow Chemical, discussed the Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) or One-Plan and E-Plan Initiatives. He stated that the goal is to consolidate all of the federally required plans under one umbrella to form one plan, covering both response and security. The plan would be developed as a guideline, and then crosschecked against the regulations to ensure all is covered. This would be the ideal plan for all hazards. A matrix would then be developed to assist in the different hazards. He then further stated all area level plans should be integrated and updated as well.

The E-Plan will be an online resource and will have the ability to be used by first responders. The MSDS, chemical guides, hazmat guides, and response guides would all be included in the E-Plan. This may help deliver the information for first responders without getting in the hands of people who do not have the need to know.

Finally, Mr. Overman solicited for a limited number of volunteers from the members to assist in developing a strawman type outline, with inclusion of more members once a viable outline has been developed.

Prep Exercise:

LTJG Xaimara Vicencio-Roldan, Chief, Planning Section, MSO Houston-Galveston, reviewed the upcoming Prep Exercise information. The exercise is slated to be during the 3rd week of November 2005. The following meetings are tentatively scheduled:

- ❖ A meeting will be held regarding the PREP exercise in November 2004.
 - ❖ A pre-planning and coordination meeting will be held prior to the design team meeting.
 - ❖ Assessment Meeting 20 June 2005
 - ❖ 1st design meeting 25 July 2005.
 - ❖ 2nd design meeting 29 August 2005
 - ❖ 3rd design meeting 03 October 2005
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- The possible training opportunities leading up to the exercise may include
 - ❖ ICS 100-300
 - ❖ ICS Planning Process Workshop
 - ❖ Conducted Multi Agency Team Enhancement System training
 - ❖ Participate in Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Team training
 - ❖ JIC/Risk Communication training

Surface Washing Agents:

Dr. Buzz Martin, TGLO, reviewed the current status of surface washing agent approval. The pre-approval of surface washing agents extends only to vessels and hard structures in pre-designated port areas. The pre-approval process must go through the Captain of the Port and up to the RRT. The process of pre-approval then looks at the area included (like industrial) and other factors such as the Endangered Species Act, with consultations with NOAA and Texas State Wildlife and Fisheries. GIS is used in this process to determine authorized places. GIS is used to recognize the Environmentally Sensitive Index for our shorelines. The final steps are to review process will include the Surface Washing Committee, with a letter with enclosures addressed to the RRT.

RRT REGION VI:

LCDR David Pertuz, D8 (drat), stated that the next RRT meeting is scheduled for 26-27 January 2005 in South Padre Island. However, it maybe relocated to Brownsville, Texas to accommodate the Mexican delegation. POC: LCDR David Pertuz, Tel: (504) 589-4453.

****NEXT CTCAC MEETING****

Next meeting is scheduled for 0900-1100 hours on 09 December 04, with Clean Channel Association hosting, located at 3110 Pasadena Freeway, Pasadena, Texas 77503. POC: Mr. Phil Glenn, Tel: (713) 534-6195.